Avoid crashes: Know What to Look For

A pedestrian could be your friend, your family member or your neighbor. A cyclist could be you. Please share the road with the most vulnerable road users. *Here's what drivers can do to avoid crashes:*

Texting: Avoid distractions.

It is illegal to text and drive in Chicago. Your primary responsibility is to stay focused and safe while driving. It is illegal to talk on a cell phone unless using a hands-free device. Talking on a cell phone in a school or construction zone is illegal. *MCC 9-76-230, Sec. 5-11-1002.5*

Pass cyclists at a safe distance.

Leave at least three feet of clear space when passing a cyclist. Passing cyclists too closely is dangerous and illegal; it can result in a fine. *MCC 9-36-010(c)*

Never park in a bike lane.

Parking in a bike lane forces cyclists to merge with faster moving traffic, endangering them and other motorists. Driving, parking, standing or stopping in a bike lane is illegal and can result in towing and a fine. *MCC 9-40-060*

Watch for people riding against traffic.

If you see a bicyclist riding the wrong way (against traffic), slow down and pass with at least three feet of space.

Exit blind alleys carefully.

Always stop before crossing a sidewalk. Honk when exiting an alley, garage, or other places with limited sight lines to warn of your approach.

Check for cyclists before you open your door.

LOOK for cyclists when exiting and entering vehicles near bike lanes. Crashes due to "doorings" cause critical injuries and deaths every year, yet are easily avoidable. Violations may result in a fine. *MCC 9-80-35*

At the end of the day, we're all pedestrians.

As a driver, you must STOP for all pedestrians in crosswalks, even if there is no sign or signal present; it's the law. Most pedestrians are hit while legally crossing the street.

It's up to you to keep Chicago safe.

MCC 9-24-050, Sec. 5-11-1002

Turning vehicles must STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks; it's the law. *MCC 9-24-050, Sec. 5-11-903*

Drivers and pedestrians alike have a responsibility to LOOK out for each other. *MCC 9-60-120, Sec. 5-11-1003.1*

Drivers may not overtake other drivers stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk. *MCC 9-36-060*

6/2013

CDOT
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CHICAGOBIKES.ORG
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IT'S UP TO YOU
BE ALERT. BE SAFE.
we're all pedestrians

Tips for Motorists

Chicago: It's up to **you** to make our streets safer for **everyone**.

STOP

FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS

3PM–6PM

The time of day when pedestrians are more likely to be struck by a car. Stay aware at intersections!

DON'T
- **TEXT OR TALK WHILE DRIVING**
- **DRIVE OR PARK IN BIKE LANES**

LOOK

BEHIND YOU WHEN OPENING CAR DOORS

3 FEET

PASS CYCLISTS WITH THREE FEET OF CLEAR SPACE

People ride on the street because it's required by law. Pass them safely.

SLOW DOWN

HIGH SPEEDS = SERIOUS INJURIES

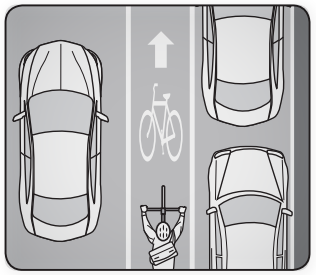
- 20 MPH = 95% Survival
- 30 MPH = 55% Survival
- **40 MPH = 15% Survival**

As vehicle speed increases, there's a dramatic drop in the chance a pedestrian will survive if struck. ***Pay extra attention in school zones***, even outside of school hours.

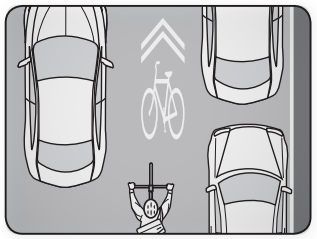
MORE BIKES = LESS CAR TRAFFIC

Know Your Bike Lanes

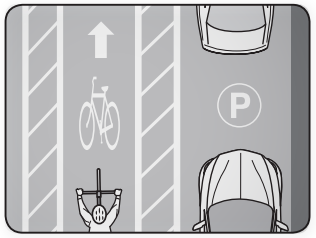
Bike lanes encourage people to travel by bicycle by giving them a designated space on the street.



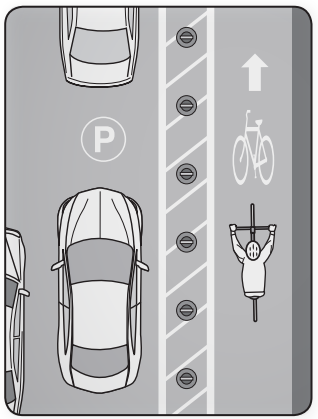
BIKE LANES are striped, on-street lanes with a bicycle symbol and an arrow. Be especially cautious when opening your door into a bike lane. LOOK twice, save a life.



MARKED SHARED LANES are not striped but show the bicycle symbol and a chevron; they are typically installed when there is not enough width for a full bike lane.



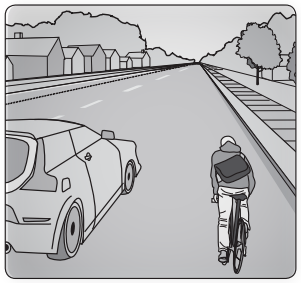
BUFFER-PROTECTED BIKE LANES are similar to conventional bike lanes, with extra space to keep cyclists further from parked vehicles and opening doors.



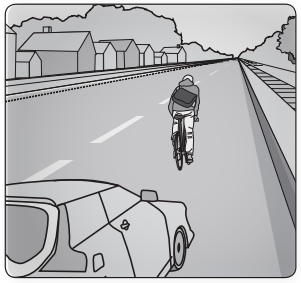
BARRIER-PROTECTED BIKE LANES use physical barriers between cyclists and moving cars to help people of all ages feel more comfortable on the street. The lane is usually located next to the curb. Bicyclists may be traveling at a high speed; check and double-check before turning through a bike lane. Cars park between the bike lane and car travel lane.

Share the Road with Cyclists

Drivers want to get where they're going, and cyclists do too. Know what to expect and learn why cyclists ride where they do.

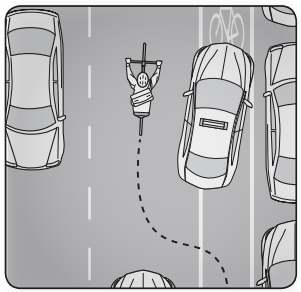


ON WIDE ROADS: Bicyclists typically ride on the right so cars can pass easily on the left. Look for "shared lane" markings on the road and give at least three feet of space.



ON NARROW ROADS: By law, cyclists may choose to ride in the center of the lane, which keeps them safe from getting "pinched" by passing cars, or forced into the "door zone." Wait until oncoming traffic is clear and then pass in another lane.

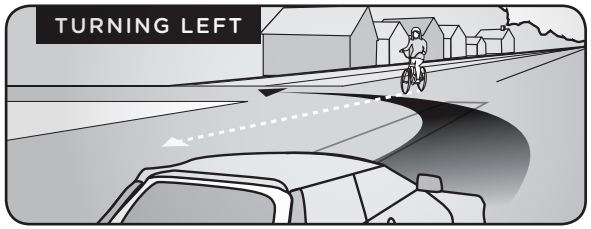
IN A LEFT/CENTER TURN LANE: The law says bicyclists may use the left lane to turn. Let them merge and don't follow too closely. Before moving into a left turn lane, check over your left shoulder for bicyclists.



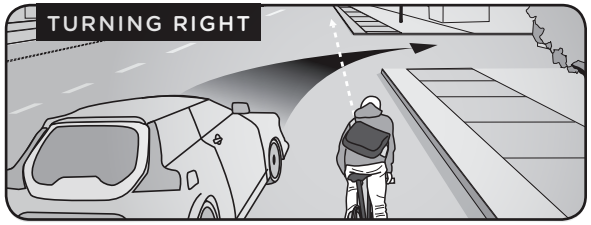
WHEN BIKE LANES ARE OBSTRUCTED: Bicyclists are often forced to merge with faster-moving traffic to avoid hazards and double-parked vehicles. Slow down and give three feet of space.

Approach Intersections Safely

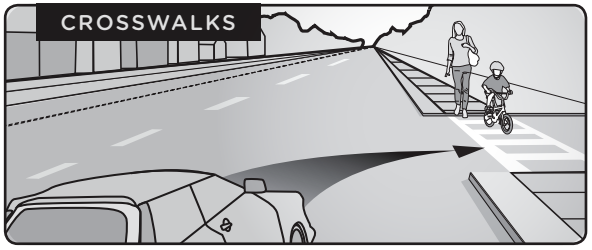
Most crashes occur at intersections. Know who has the right of way and how to avoid a collision.



Cyclists are often moving faster than they appear. Wait for oncoming cyclists to pass; turning left in front of an oncoming cyclist is illegal and could cause a serious crash. *MCC 9-16-020 (e)*



LOOK behind you for cyclists and wait for them to pass before turning. Turning right in front of a cyclist is illegal and could cause a serious crash. *MCC 9-16-020 (f)*



TURNING INTO CROSSWALKS: STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks when turning right or left. In Chicago, most car-on-pedestrian crashes occur near an intersection.

KIDS RIDING ON SIDEWALKS: When you see kids on bikes nearing a crosswalk or intersection, get ready to stop for them. People age 12 and over must ride on the street.

Sec. 5-11-903